

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Thailand

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### Bangkok Newsletter - March 2010

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Market Development Reports

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**Report Highlights:**

TH0044 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on the Thai agricultural situation, market access, and upcoming events. In this issue learn about Thailand's goal of joining the Copenhagen Accord, the latest on biodiesel, access for animal and animal products, and the first SE Asia Aquaculture Conference.

## **General Information:**

### **HOT NEWS**

#### Thailand Intends to Join the Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change

On January 29, 2010 the Thai Government sent a letter to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) indicating its willingness to join the Copenhagen Accord. However before Thailand can officially join the Accord, the Government must comply with constitutional requirements that call for public hearings and the Parliaments' endorsement of the Accord.

#### Thailand to Replace B2 Biodiesel Production with B3

The Thai Minister of Energy indicated that B2 biodiesel production and sale will be replaced by B3 in March or April. He affirmed that B100 biodiesel supplies are sufficient to meet the new requirements for the blended form that will use 3 percent pure biodiesel from the current form that uses 2 percent. This change will require an increase in supply of B100 from 1.8 million liters to 2.1 million liters/day (767 million liters/annum).

### **MARKET ACCESS UPDATE**

#### Status of U.S. Meat and Bone Meal Market Access

Representatives from the National Renderers Association (NRA), FAS/Bangkok and officials of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) met to review the status of U.S. meat-bone-meal (MBM). DLD indicated that Thailand allows imports of U.S. non-ruminant MBM from plants audited by DLD. However, DLD stated that ruminant MBM is not allowed into Thailand alluding that OIE guidelines require that ruminant MBM must come from "negligible risk" countries only. For more details see GAIN report "[Status of U.S. Meat and Bone Meal Market Access](#)".

#### Thailand Biotechnology Update

Policy development in the area of agricultural biotechnology is proceeding slowly. A draft of the biosafety law and a final draft for field trial guidelines remain under review. A recently appointed government environmental task force has proposed to include biotechnology, along with other projects, as an activity that could pose potential danger to a community's well-being. This situation has created angst among biotech stakeholders who are attempting to upend this proposal through public hearings. For more details see GAIN report "[Biotechnology Update](#)".

#### Certification Requirement for Hendra and Mobili Virus Diseases on Horses Removed

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) notified APHIS/Bangkok that it has removed a certification requirement indicating no incidence of Hendra and Mobilli virus diseases on live horses imported into Thailand from all exporting countries, except Malaysia and Australia. However, the

prohibition of U.S. horses into Thailand has not changed due to other disease requirements, which APHIS is trying to resolve with DLD.

#### Import Fees on Pork Back-Fat Exempted

The Thai Cabinet recently approved to exempt the import permit fee of 5 baht/kilogram (approx. US\$ 150/ton) on imports of pork-back fat, pork casings and sheep casings that will be used for re-export of these products. U.S. pork back-fat is the only product permitted into Thailand.

#### Import Procedures for Animal and Animal Products

The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has been implementing its revised "Procedures to Import Animal or Animal products into the Kingdom of Thailand" issued in 2002 and amended in December 2009, to growing number of animal and animal products. According to DLD, in order to negotiate an import protocol, valid for two years, the exporting country must submit responses to a questionnaire and a plant by plant inspection must be conducted by Thai officials. Currently, these stringent procedures have been implemented for pork and pork products, beef and beef products and day old chicks.

### **MARKET OPPORTUNITIES**

#### DVC Product Presentations

FAS/Bangkok can help facilitate digital video conference with Thai importers. Please contact us for more information at [agbangkok@fas.usda.gov](mailto:agbangkok@fas.usda.gov).

#### Looking for U.S. Suppliers

A Thai company is looking for immediate purchase of cheese (cheese for pizza, cheddar, and mozzarella), nuts & dried fruits, and organic seed. If interest, please contact Mr. Suvit Kijjawattana, Director, American-European Products Co., Ltd., Tel. (662) 538-2464, Fax. (662) 538-3386, Email: [import@aepthailand.com](mailto:import@aepthailand.com).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### American Soybean Association's Activities in South East Asia

ASA will conduct the 2010 ASAIM SE Asia Aquaculture Conference: "Improving Aquaculture Through Feeds and Technology", from March 22-25, 2010 at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, Thailand and the 4th SE Asia Grains and Transportation Conference: "Shipping and the Supply Chain in the Next Decade" from April 28-30, 2010 at the St. Regis, Singapore. More details are available at <http://www.asaimsea.com>.

#### Bond Estate Wines in Thailand

Bond Estate Winery will be featured at the Ambassador's residence on March 16 to officially launch Bond Estate wines into the Thai market. This invitation-only event will include wine enthusiasts, food service professionals, retailers, and key consumers. Mr. Paul Roberts, Master Sommelier and Director of Bond Estate, will introduce the guests to the wines. To learn more about Bond Estate winery, please visit [www.bondestates.com](http://www.bondestates.com).

#### Overseas Varietal Analysis (OVA) on April 5-9, 2010 in Bangkok

On April 5-9, 2010 US Wheat Associates will conduct the Overseas Varietal Analysis (OVA) program at the UFM Baking & cooking School in Bangkok. This biennial program targets quality control staff of commercial flour mills from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand whom have the opportunity to conduct analysis on the various classes of wheat from different origins. Their feedback is used by U.S. Wheat Associates to determine the wheat preferences of its customers in order to tailor their needs according. More information on U.S. Wheat Associates can be found at <http://www.uswheat.org>.

#### Food and Hotel Asia 2010

Mark your calendar for the largest food shows in Southeast Asia, Food and Hotel Asia 2010, will take place in Singapore on April 20-23. The show expects to attract 2,800 exhibitors from 70 countries. The 654 sqm USA pavilion will showcase AJC International, American Indian Foods, American Roland Food Corporation, Athena Marketing, Big Train, California Milk Advisory Board, Excel Trade, Food Export Midwest, French Gourmet, Geller International, General Mills, Global Export, Gold Medal, Independent Meat, Lamb Weston, McIlhenny Company and other U.S. companies. Additional information on this show please visit [www.foodnhotelasia.com](http://www.foodnhotelasia.com).

#### WUSATA Outbound Trade Mission to Bangkok Thailand

The Idaho and Washington State Departments of Agriculture, in cooperation with WUSATA will organize an outbound trade mission to Bangkok, Thailand during April 25-28 following Food and Hotel Asia, Singapore. U.S. companies will meet one on one with importers, showcase their products, develop contacts, identify market opportunities, and gain first-hand knowledge of the Thai market. FAS/Bangkok will set up individual meetings with key buyers, importers and distributors of food and retail services. Companies interested in participating may contact Amanda Albers, Trade Specialist-Idaho State Department of Agriculture at [amanda.albers@agri-idaho.gov](mailto:amanda.albers@agri-idaho.gov).

#### Thai Food Ingredient Importer Join Buyers Mission and Attend Bakery Show

Food Export USA - Northeast and Food Export Association of the Midwest USA has invited Nutrition SC Co., Ltd. ([www.nutritionsc.co.th](http://www.nutritionsc.co.th)), a leading Thai importer of food ingredients, to participate in a Bakery Ingredients Buyer Mission to Chicago, IL and the International Bakery Ingredient Exposition (IBIE) in Las Vegas during September 23-30, 2010. Company executives will have the opportunity to meet with major U.S. suppliers of bakery ingredients and cutting-edge technological products. Information on the IBIE is available at [www.bakingexpo.org](http://www.bakingexpo.org).

